

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/GB2004/003730

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 C08G79/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 C08G

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 01/57050 A (OTTER GRAHAM PHILIP ; WOODWARD GARY (GB); DAVIS KEITH PHILIP (GB); RHO) 9 August 2001 (2001-08-09) page 3, line 13 - page 4, line 2 page 5, line 21 - page 12, line 31; claims 25-37	1-24
A	EP 0 861 846 A (ALBRIGHT & WILSON UK LTD) 2 September 1998 (1998-09-02) page 2, line 3 - page 4, line 7 page 5, lines 13-44; claims; examples	1-24

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the International filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the International search	Date of mailing of the International search report
8 November 2004	15/11/2004
Name and mailing address of the ISA	Authorized officer
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Otegui Rebollo, J

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Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: 25 because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple Inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
 No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: 25

The subject-matter of present claim 25 is indefinite so that a lack of clarity (and conciseness) within the meaning of Article 6 PCT arises to such an extent as to render a meaningful search of the claim impossible. Consequently, the search has been carried out for those parts of the application which do appear to be clear (and concise), namely claims 1 to 24.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

PCT/GB2004/003730

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
WO 0157050	A 09-08-2001	AT 250618 T		15-10-2003
		AU 3198801 A		14-08-2001
		CA 2399017 A1		09-08-2001
		CN 1419562 T		21-05-2003
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		DE 60100849 T2		15-07-2004
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		WO 0157050 A1		09-08-2001
		NO 20023666 A		10-09-2002
		PT 1254144 T		27-02-2004
		US 2003073805 A1		17-04-2003
EP 0861846	A 02-09-1998	AT 236175 T		15-04-2003
		AU 727273 B2		07-12-2000
		AU 5627498 A		03-09-1998
		CA 2230517 A1		26-08-1998
		DE 69812753 D1		08-05-2003
		DE 69812753 T2		05-02-2004
		DK 861846 T3		21-07-2003
		EP 0861846 A2		02-09-1998
		ES 2196413 T3		16-12-2003
		GB 2322627 A ,B		02-09-1998
		NO 980782 A		27-08-1998
		US 6071434 A		06-06-2000